

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00954 051507Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----113269 051733Z /44
R 041245Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0954

EXDIS

PASS AID FOR AID/W AND FFP AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MZ, UZ
SUBJECT: FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) MAPUTO 0953: (B) STATE 087500 (EXDIS) (C) POLICY
ANALYSIS AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION PAPER FOR MOZAMBIQUE, DECEMBER
1976

1. SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE A
GRANT OF 40,000 TONS OF EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE WHEAT TO
MOZAMBIQUE UNDER PL480 TITLE II, SECTION 201. A FOOD AID OFFER
IN THIS AMOUNT IS SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES IN
MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND WOULD BE A FULFILLMENT OF
USG COMMITMENTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE. END
SUMMARY.

2. IN REFTEL A, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. RESPOND
TO THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT (GPRM) REQUEST FOR FOOD AID BY
PROVIDING 40,000 TONS OF WHEAT UNDER PL480 TITLE II, SECTION 201.

3. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE IS CONSISTENT WITH
THE POLICY AND STRATEGY IN THE POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESOURCE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00954 051507Z

ALLOCATION (PARA) PAPER FOR MOZAMBIQUE APPROVED BY THE INTER-
DEPARTMENTAL GROUP IN DECEMBER 1976. ONE OF THE COURSES OF
ACTION PROPOSED IN THE PARA WAS "TO CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO
GPRM REQUESTS FOR HUMANITARIAN, FOOD OR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE."

4. WHILE U.S. FOOD AID IS NOT LIKELY TO RESULT IN ANY MODERA-
TION IN MOZAMBIQUE'S DECIDEDLY PRO-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-WESTERN

POLICIES, WE BELIEVE FOOD AID IN THE AMOUNT RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL A WILL BE A MODEST WAY HELP:

- TO ENCOURAGE MACHEL AND THE GPRM TO WORK WITH THE OTHER FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY TO BRING MAJORITY RULE TO ZIMBABWE AND INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS; OR AT A MINIMUM, DISCOURAGE MACHEL AND THE GPRM FROM WORKING OPENLY AND ACTIVELY AGAINST THE U.S./UK AND FIVE POWER INITIATIVES;
- TO MAINTAIN A DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE AND POSTURE IN MOZAMBIQUE THAT WILL BE VIEWED BY BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS AS EVIDENCE OF USG SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE THROUGHOUT AFRICA;
- TO ERODE THE POLITICAL MYTHOLOGY PREVALENT IN MOZAMBIQUE AND OFFICIALLY PERPETRATED BY FRELIMO THAT IT IS IN MOZAMBIQUE'S INTEREST TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE FROM THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE U.S.; AND
- TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE FOR THE NOTION THAT THE U.S. IS NOT THE "DEMON" THE MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA MAKES IT OUT TO BE AND THAT THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE IT IS IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE.

5. ON TWO OCCASIONS WITHIN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS THE USG HAS INDICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

A. THE FIRST OCCASION WAS IN A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL, DATED APRIL 16, 1977 (CLASSIFIED EXDIS) IN WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER WROTE: "I AM AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00954 051507Z

THAT MOZAMBIQUE FACES AS A NEW NATION AND PARTICULARLY THE DIFFICULTIES THAT YOU ENCOUNTER AS A RESULT OF THE RISING VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE. THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO HELP IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS. FOOD ASSISTANCE WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TANGIBLE FORM, AND AMBASSADOR DE PREE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU."

B. THE SECOND OCCASION WAS THE U.S. VOTE IN SUPPORT OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 411 OF JUNE 30, 1977, WHICH CALLS UPON UN MEMBERS "TO GIVE IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL ASSISTANCE" TO MOZAMBIQUE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RHODESIAN MILITARY RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE.

6. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES A GRANT CONTRIBUTION OF 40,000 TONS OF WHEAT IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO MOZAMBIQUE'S CURRENT NEEDS AND A TIMELY FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMITMENT WE UNDERTOOK WHEN WE VOTED FOR SC RESOLUTION 411. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL A, THE GPRM REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID IS JUSTIFIED AND CAN BE SUPPORTED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS ALONE. FROM WHAT GPRM OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US, FOOD AID, ON THE SAME TERMS UNDER WHICH IT WAS PROVIDED IN 1976 AND WHICH WE ARE RECOMMENDING BE REPEATED THIS YEAR, IS A WELCOME FORM OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. IN THE ABSENCE OF A DIRECT DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION, WHICH WE

PROVIDED LAST YEAR, AND IN VIEW OF THE DELAYS WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WOULD ARISE IN TRYING TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE, FOOD AID IS THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS FORM OF AID WE CAN PROVIDE THE GPRM. IT ALSO ENTAILS A MINIMUM OF NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTIES.

7. IN SUM, FOR HUMANITARIAN, POLICY AND BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF A GRANT OF 40,000 TONS OF WHEAT FOR MOZAMBIQUE UNDER PL480 TITLE II, SECTION 201.
DE PREE

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